

To: Potential Members of our Health Department's/Hospital's Smallpox Response Team  
From: (Health Officer or Hospital Administrator)  
Subject: Advance Information about Smallpox Vaccine

The Bush administration has announced a plan to better protect the American people against the threat of a smallpox attack. Although no evidence has been released that smallpox presents an imminent threat to the U.S., consequences of such an event would be great, so our government is taking precautions for this possibility. Phase 1 of the new National Smallpox Vaccination Plan includes vaccination of public health and hospital-based health care worker who could respond to an initial case or outbreak of smallpox and provide critical services.

As part of Phase 1, state and local health departments and hospitals will be working together to vaccinate volunteer Smallpox Response Teams to ensure that they can mobilize immediately in an emergency. Vaccination of these teams is important because these health care workers are at the highest risk of exposure to smallpox if a case appears. In addition, the teams will play an important role in immediately administering vaccinations if there is a need to expand the program.

Your position and responsibilities put you in an eligible category for our Smallpox Response Team. Participation on the response team is completely voluntary. I want you to have some advance information to help you decide whether to be vaccinated. It is important that you understand the risks of being vaccinated. There are some personal and family contraindications. Those who have been previously vaccinated are at lower risk for adverse events and are encouraged to consider revaccination. Attached are some fact sheets for your review:

- CDC Fact Sheets:
  - Smallpox Overview (also in Spanish)
  - Vaccine Overview (also in Spanish)
  - Who Should NOT Receive the Smallpox Vaccine (also in Spanish)
  - Reactions after Smallpox Vaccination (also in Spanish)
  - Smallpox Vaccine Information Statement
- CDC Question & Answer sheet
- CDC "Section 304 of the Homeland Security Act (Liability Issues)" Question & Answer sheet
- CDC Self-Screening Checklist (*Draft 12/16/02*)

Additional information is available on CDC's website at [www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/reference/resource-kit.asp/](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/reference/resource-kit.asp/).

Before the actual smallpox vaccination clinics begin there will be an official packet of information for anyone considering vaccination or participation on our Smallpox Response Team. Meanwhile, please give these materials your careful attention.